

Specification Status

1. Page 1, rewrite the first paragraph to read as follows:

This application is a continuation-in-part application of United States Serial No. 10/407,992 filed on April 7 4, 2003 in the name of Ronald Harrison and entitled "Apparatus for Assembling Temporary Road Mats" which issued as United States Patent No. 6,745,452.

2. Page 14, rewrite the second paragraph to read as follows:

Referring to Figures 11 and 12, there is shown another embodiment of the invention wherein the assembly apparatus is provided with stationary drilling assemblies and a mobile assembly platform. More particularly, the assembly apparatus 200 comprises a longitudinal assembly line 202 for routing timbers 203 ~~2203~~ in layers onto a mobile assembly platform ~~204~~ including an indexing conveyor 206, past upper and lower drill assemblies 208, 210 respectively, for sequentially drilling a lateral series of holes in a roughly assembled mat 212, followed by bolting of the layers of timbers into compressive engagement to form a finished mat in upper assembly area 214 and lower assembly area 216.

3. Page 16, rewrite the third paragraph to read as follows:

After the first row of profiles is formed and the mat indexed, the carriage bolts are inserted. This provides for low stress assembly inasmuch as the holes are coaxial at drilling and the short transfer area presenting little opportunity for timber shifting. After assembly of the first row, the alignment becomes increasingly stable thereby allowing the close sliding fit between the fastener and holes. To prevent the upward movement of the carriage bolts during attachment of the nuts, a slightly downwardly inclined plate 254 ~~250~~ is supported above the table and timbers, downstream of the bolt assembly area. In the lower bay 260 below the table, the nuts are

assembled on the bolts to create the composite mat. Upon completion, the composite mat is transferred from the line by appropriate material handling equipment. Depending on the front length of the indexing conveyor, initial assembly may commence on another mat while the preceding mat is finishing drilling and assembly.